Here are the correct, step-by-step procedures for backwashing, rinsing, and filtering your Intex sand pump system.

Step 1: Preparation (Crucial Safety Step)

Turn off the pump: Always turn the pump OFF before moving the multi-port valve handle to prevent damaging the internal seals.

Disconnect / Open lines:

Ensure your waste/backwash hose is securely attached to the WASTE port on the valve so dirty water directs away from the pool area.

Remove the plug from the BACKWASH/WASTE outlet if it has a threaded cap or plug installed.

Note: You do not need to unhook your main pool return hose for a standard backwash cycle, as the multi-port valve automatically routes the water out of the waste port instead of back to the pool.

Step 2: Backwash

Valve Position: Set the handle to BACKWASH.

Action: Turn the pump ON and run it for 2 minutes (or until the water running through the clear sight glass on the side of the valve looks clear).

Purpose: This reverses the water flow through the sand bed, lifting up the sand, flushing out trapped dirt and debris, and sending it out the waste line.

Turn off the pump when finished.

Step 3: Rinse

Valve Position: Set the handle to RINSE.

Action: Turn the pump ON and run it for 1 to 2 minutes.

Purpose: This settles the sand bed back down and flushes any remaining dirty water out of the top of the valve so it doesn't accidentally get blown back into your pool.

Turn off the pump when finished.

Step 4: Filter (Resume Normal Operation)

Valve Position: Set the handle back to FILTER.

Action: Turn the pump ON.

Final Check: Put your backwash plug/cap back on the waste port (if applicable) and make sure water is flowing properly from your return jets back into the pool.